

as he denies himself of his bread and his meat, but when you denounce it as a forbidden article, and make it penal to make and sell it, you go, in supporting this, against the authority of the Bible. You scale the walls of truth through your assumption, as they did of old, or attempted to do at Babel; but God will confound your language, and scatter your purposes as he did theirs. This argument has not been met, and met I know it cannot be. This law must be like Pharaoh's wheels in the Red Sea—Omnipotence is against its success.

To the second argument I used, the gentleman from Chelsea made no reply. The second charge against the law was—that it was one of false pretences—of being one thing by name and another in its purpose. It states itself to be a law to regulate the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors, but it is neither more nor less than a law for the enactment of total abstinence. Legislation, sir, ought to be fair and correct in its character; it ought not to be more nor less than what it pretends to be—its objects other than it is obviously designed to cover. But it is not so with this law; for while it is designed, by public profession, to do one thing, it contemplates quite another. Mr. Smith took good care to pass over this thing; and his conduct in that particular deserves the title of “masterly inactivity.” He has wisely let this thing alone.

“All thou has been reflects less fame on thee,
Far less, than all thou hast foreborne to be.”

Dr. Beecher has said, referring to me, that I knew which end of the poker to take hold of. Mr. Smith takes hold of no end of that instrument—simply for the reason that he finds it hot at both ends.

I did not recollect at the time I spoke of this point, that “confirmation strong as holy writ,” was at hand; yet it was; for recollect sir, that a Convention was held in this city, some weeks, ago, for the purpose of supporting the claims of the Maine Law and of bringing its influence to bear on the legislature. They came to besiege Boston and to make it complete to their minds. Now, it sounds strange, but it is true that the Convention passed a resolution making the Maine Law a State Pledge.

[Here Mr. Lovejoy read the resolution, as follows:—

“Resolved, That this law is to be regarded as the total abstinence pledge of the whole State.”]

The law is a State's Pledge for total abstinence! I know it was—I said so a year ago; and they now urge the citizens of this Commonwealth to enforce the law is not to enforce total abstinence! The question is not, Mr. Chairmen, whether it is best to have a law to enforce total abstinence—that may be discussed at some future time—but the question is, is this law an attempt, under false pretences, to do that? And I say it is; it is proved; there is a confession note; an owning up; a public and open avowal; and now we hear it admitted, in one year from its enactment, that is a total abstinence law, and to enforce it is to enforce total abstinence!

The third argument that I submitted was, that this law was enacted by an approximation of church and state. The gentleman from Chelsea made but a very gentle reply to this argument. But he hinted in that reply, that there was, on my part—at least he should have thought so had he not known to the contrary—a want of reverence for the church. Now, sir, I repel any such insinuation. Never has this tongue, or these lips, uttered one word against the church or its ministers. I love her and I love them, and I will to the end.

But when she is inveigled and ensnared by the State Temperance Committee, I will cut the harness if I can. Mr. Chairman, I am very glad to hear from that quarter a cry for reverence, a cry of respect, a cry for honor to whom honor is due. For one, sir, I am very far from decrying church or state. The same authority that established the church established the state, each for their different purposes: and the same authority which established the church says that “the powers that be are ordained of God; and the same voice that says “fear God,” says also “honor the king.” Honor the sovereign power. I am glad to hear a voice of reverence from the quarter. It is time such a note